

Abstract

This diploma thesis deals with the development and analysis of the First Principle and Foundation (DC23) of St. Ignatius Spiritual Exercises and the subsequent reflection of the great theologians of the second half of the twentieth century, such as Karl Rahner and Hans Urs von Balthasar. The work first traces the historical development of The Spiritual Exercises, how it originated, where it originated, for what purpose, what were the literary sources of The Spiritual Exercises, how the exercises reflected the spiritual experience of Ignatius of Loyola and last but not least follows various texts, copies and adaptations of the book The Spiritual Exercises. The next step is the analysis of the First Principle and Foundation its place as a whole, references to other parts of The Spiritual Exercises, sources, structure and function of the text in the context of The Spiritual Exercises. The last part of the thesis follows the theological interpretation of the First Principle and Foundation from the perspective of two great thinkers, Karel Rahner and Hans Urs von Balthasar. It focuses on their theological background and contribution to Ignatian spirituality.

Keywords

Principium et fundamentum, The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, Ignatius of Loyola, Ignatian Spirituality, Systematic Theology, Karl Rahner, Hans Urs von Balthasar, Theology of the Twentieth Century.